

South Segment: Construction Update #3

Great Projects are Developed by Great Teams and Partners

By Gustavo Dallarda, Corridor Director

The Interstate 15 (I-15) Express Lanes project is truly a team effort. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) partners with local communities, transit agencies, federal, regional, and local governments, as well as contractors and consultants.

By working together, we are creating the region's first high-tech freeway to meet the diverse travel needs of commuters and commerce. Once completed in 2012, the Express Lanes will span 20 miles from State Route 163 (SR-163) north to State Route 78 (SR-78). It will increase freeway capacity and provide accessible and reliable transit options.

During construction, the South Segment team of project designers, engineers, contractors and public outreach staff are located on-site. By locating team members together, we are developing and implementing inventive solutions that ultimately accelerate project delivery and save taxpayer money.

Due to the contributions of our team and the I-15 communities, we celebrated the opening of the final portion of the Middle Segment this month (see photo below), while construction progresses in the North and South Segments.

Thank you for your support and patience.



Stakeholders shown at Middle Segment opening event (right to left): Caltrans Director Will Kempton, Caltrans District 11 Media Relations Officer Edward Cartagena, Caltrans District 11 Director Pedro Orso-Delgado, and the Mayor of Escondido Lori Holt Pfeiler.



Poway Road/Rancho Peñasquitos Boulevard bridge at Interstate 15: This month construction began to reconstruct this bridge and make room for two additional express lanes.

Reconstruction Work Begins on Two Bridges in South Segment

Bridge construction is one of the most visible aspects of the I-15 Express Lanes project. In the South Segment, two bridges are now being reconstructed:

- ▶ Poway Road/Rancho Peñasquitos Boulevard Bridge
- ▶ Carroll Canyon Road Bridge

Both bridges are being reconstructed piece by piece to create the space needed under the bridge for the new I-15 Express Lanes.

Construction work on these bridges is phased. The goals of the construction phasing are to create a safe work area for construction workers and travelers, keep traffic flowing across the bridges, and to reduce impacts to residents and local businesses caused by detours.

In February, demolition work began on the north side of the Poway Road/Rancho Peñasquitos Boulevard bridge. Traffic was shifted to the south and one eastbound lane was eliminated.

In approximately one year when the north side of the bridge is rebuilt, demolition will begin on the south side of the bridge.

Demolition work also began on the south side of Carroll Canyon Canyon Road bridge. Traffic was shifted to the north, eliminating one lane of traffic in both directions. When the south side of the bridge is rebuilt in approximately one year, demolition work will begin on the north side of the bridge.

Both bridges are expected to be completed in 2011. The entire South Segment of the Express Lanes project is expected to be completed in 2012.

April 2009

Caltrans Partners with City and Community Members to Speed Water Line Relocation

Throughout February and March, motorists passing by Maya Linda Road and Carroll Canyon Road at I-15 could not help but notice



Worker smooths pavement as water main line relocation on Maya Linda Road and Carroll Canyon Road comes to an end this month.

construction work. In order to build a retaining wall near Carroll Canyon Road west of I-15, an existing water main line needed to be relocated. The work to do this relocation restricted vehicular access and street parking on Maya Linda Road and Carroll Canyon Road.

The construction team, led by Caltrans Resident Engineer Steve McMillan, worked closely with City of San Diego staff and the Water Department to reduce the length of time and severity of disruption that local residents would endure. By working longer shifts, including nights and weekends, construction is being completed at a faster rate.

In addition, Caltrans' public outreach team notified residential property managers, homeowner associations and individual stakeholders in the area each time a major lane closure or new construction schedule would take effect. The construction team worked directly with the community to respond to their questions and find mutually beneficial solutions to their concerns.

Preferred Alternative Selected for Direct Access Ramp in Mira Mesa/Scripps Ranch Communities

An important milestone was reached this month when the final environmental document for the Mira Mesa/Scripps Ranch Direct Access Ramp (DAR) was released. It announced Hillery Drive as the preferred alternative for the location of this new facility.

Once constructed, this new DAR will allow vehicles to directly enter and exit the I-15 Express Lanes in the median of the freeway. This configuration will reduce queuing and travel times in the Mira Mesa and Scripps Ranch communities and also reduce traffic at the Mira Mesa Boulevard and Carroll Canyon Road interchanges.

The draft environmental report was released in November 2008 for a 45-day public review

period. After closely analyzing public comments, environmental concerns, project costs and design alternatives, the preferred alternative was chosen.

The Mira Mesa/Scripps Ranch DAR is one of five planned along the I-15 Corridor. To encourage carpooling, vanpooling and transit ridership, each DAR will be connected to Park & Ride lots and Bus Rapid Transit Centers.

The Mira Mesa/Scripps Ranch DAR is expected to cost approximately \$75 million and be fully operational in 2014.

Three new DARs recently opened to travelers in the completed Middle Segment of the I-15 Express Lanes. One DAR serves the Sabre Springs/Peñasquitos community, another one serves Rancho Bernardo and the last one serves the City of Escondido.



Artistic Rendition: Looking east on Hillery Drive towards I-15 at the future Mira Mesa/Scripps Ranch DAR.

Question of the Quarter

**Who do I contact if I have a question on I-15 construction?
How do my questions get answered?**

Our project team understands that the I-15 Express Lanes project has long-term, wide-ranging importance to dozens of neighborhoods and communities along the corridor. The construction and design team want to stay in close communication with these stakeholders, so Caltrans has a dedicated, full-time Public Information Office at the I-15 construction site. Since the beginning of 2009, the I-15 Public Information Office has received and responded to over 150 inquiries.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the project, please call us at 858-668-3368 or visit www.KeepSanDiegoMoving.com where newsletters, construction advisories, news releases, and nightly closures are posted daily to keep you informed.



Some of the construction and design team members of the Interstate 15 Express Lanes project.

How to Stay Informed:

For construction updates and questions, log-on to www.KeepSanDiegoMoving.com

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